GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2554
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
. PRODUCTION CONSUMPTION AND PRICE OF SALT
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the state/UT-wise production and consumption of salt in the country along with quantum and value of its export, country-wise during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the salient features of the Modified Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (MNMAY) including health insurance implemented by the Government for salt workers along with the funds sanctioned and utilized there under during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State/UT-wise;

(c) the achievements made under the schemes indicating the present status of construction of dwelling units/houses and number of beneficiaries since the inception of the Schemes, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any request from various States including Gujarat for enhancing the share of the Central Government under the MNMAY and has also sought 50 per cent assistance in the projects for welfare activities and development in salt producing areas and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the salt producers are getting remunerative price of their produce, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to salt producers for their produce and to protect their interests?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The State/UT-wise production of common salt and consumption of salt (edible and industrial salt based on supplies) during the last three years i.e. for the year 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and the current year 2014-15 (up to May, 2014) is given at Annexure − I and Annexure − II respectively. The quantum and value of its export, country-wise, during the said period are at Annexure − III.

(b): The Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (NMAY), a Central Sector Scheme, was formulated and implemented during the 10th Five Year Plan, for construction of 5000 dwelling units for salt workers. The scheme was modified as Modified Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (MNMAY) on 16th December, 2010 for the 11th Five Year Plan. As per the approved scheme, the cost of each house was to be Rs.45,000/- of which the Central Government share was to be Rs.40,000/. The remaining Rs.5,000/- was to be borne by the beneficiary / State Governments / other stakeholders. For each unit, the plinth area was 20.45 square metre. However, the scheme did not take off and no fund was sanctioned by the Central Government under the scheme during the last three years and the current year. The Central Government is not implementing any health insurance scheme for salt workers at present.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): The Central Government had received a general reference from the Government of Gujarat in February 2012 suggesting that the Central Government may contribute 50% of the amount in the projects approved by the State Government for the better welfare activities and development in salt producing areas. In the absence of any concrete and specific proposal, no decision could be taken. The State Government has been informed.

(e): Price of salt is determined by market forces and not regulated by the Government. The cost price of raw salt varies from State to State depending upon the productivity, cost of inputs like labour, electricity and density of brine used for production of salt. The sale price of salt depends upon its variety i.e. industrial / iodized / refined iodized / vacuum evaporated / pure salt, quality of packing material used and other determinants including transport of salt.

(f): The State Governments fix the minimum wages for all types of labourers including salt workers. This Ministry monitors the overall development of salt industry, through the Salt Commissioner's Office (SCO). This includes planning, facilitating technology upgradation of the salt production process and conducting training programmes for salt workers.